Parity Price with the floor and ceiling price as indicated above.

4. **Expansion projects**: Setting up of a new ammonia-urea plant (a separate new ammonia-urea train) in the premises of the existing fertilizer plants, utilizing some of the common utilities will qualify for being treated as expansion project. The investment should exceed a minimum limit of Rs.3000 crore. The urea from the expansion of existing units will be recognized at 90% of IPP, with the floor and ceiling price as indicated above.

5. **Revival/Brownfield projects**: The urea from the revived units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited(HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) will be recognized at 95% of IPP with prescribed floor & ceiling price, if the revival of closed units takes placed in public sector.

6. **Greenfield projects**: The pricing of Greenfield projects will be decided based on a bidding process which will be for a discount over IPP, after firming up of the location (States) of the proposed new plants.

7. **Gas transportation charges**: An additional gas transportation cost will be paid to units undertaking expansion and revival on the basis of actuals (upto 5.2 Gcal per MT of urea) as decided by the Regulator(Gas) subject to a maximum ceiling of USD 25 per MT of urea.

8. **Allocation of Gas**: Only non-APM gas will be considered for the new investment in urea sector.

9. **Coal gasification based Urea Projects**: The Coal gasification based urea projects will also be treated on par with a revival or a Greenfield project as the case may be. In addition, any other incentives or tax benefits as provided by Government for encouraging coal gasification technology will also be extended to these projects.

10. **Joint Ventures abroad**: The Joint Venture projects abroad in gas rich countries are also proposed to be encouraged through firm offtake contracts with pricing decided on the basis of prevailing market conditions and in mutual consultation with the joint venture company. However, the principle for deciding upon the maximum price will be the price achieved under Greenfield projects or 95% of IPP as proposed for revival projects (in absence of any Greenfield projects) with a cap of USD 405 CIF India per MT and a floor of USD 225 CIF India per MT (inclusive of handling and bagging costs).

11. **Time period for proposed investment policy**: Only those revamp projects which start production of additional capacities within four years of notification of the new policy would qualify for the dispensation recommended above. Similarly production from expansion and revival (brownfield) units that come about within five years of notification of the new policy would qualify for dispensation provided in the policy. If the production does not come through within the stipulated time period, such brownfield projects will be treated similar to a Greenfield projects wherein price will be decided through limited bidding options. The time period for setting up of new Joint Ventures would also be five years under the new investment policy.

Shortage of foodgrains in PDS

1293. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of availability of foodgrains in Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Availability of foodgrains in Central Pool for allocations under TPDS is dependent on their procurement through MSP operations. The procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool and offtake for TPDS from 2004-05 have been as follows:-

Year	Procurement of food grains for the Central Pool (lakh tons)			TPDS Offtake (lakh tons)
	Rice KMS	Wheat RMS	Total	
2004-05	247	168	415	294
2005-06	277	148	425	311
2006-07	251	92	343	314
2007-08	285	111	395	333

KMS - Kharif Marketing Season.

RMS - Rabi Marketing Season.

As can be seen from the figures given above, while the offtake of food grains under TPDS has been continuously increasing from 2004-05, total procurement of food grains for the Central Pool declined during 2006-07 and has been lower during 2007-08 also, although it was marginally higher than in 2006-07. As a result, the availability of stocks in the central pool for TPDS allocations became limited from 2006-07. During KMS 2007-08 (from October, 2007 to September, 2008), procurement of rice has been 285 lakh tons, and that of wheat during RMS 2008-09 has been approximately 227 lakh tons.

Since procurement of rice in a financial year is spread over two marketing seasons, exact total availability of rice in the Central Pool for allocations under TPDS during current financial year will be known only with further procurement upto March, 2009. In comparison with the demands received from States for rice allocations in addition to existing levels of allocations, the present availability of rice in the Central Pool is much lower. However, the availability of wheat for allocations under TPDS is sufficient.

(c) Government has taken the following steps to increase production and procurement of food grains in the country:-

(i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched with an estimated outlay of Rs.25000 crores during 11th Plan period for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors including foodgrains so as to achieve 4% growth in agricultural sector during 11th Plan period.

(ii) A Centrally sponsored scheme named National Food Security Mission has been launched in selected districts so as to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses in the country by 10, 8 and 2 million tons respectively by the end of 11th Plan. An outlay of about Rs.5000 crores has been approved for this scheme during the 11th Plan.

(iii) Under Macro Management Programme in districts other than those covered under the National Food Security Mission, Integrated cereals Development Programme in wheat based cropping systems is in operation.

(iv) Minimum Support Price for wheat has been increased. It was fixed at Rs. 1000/- per qtl. for Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09, involving an increase of Rs. 150/- per qtl. over the MSP fixed for RMS 2007-08. MSP for paddy for KMS 2008-09 has been increased from Rs.745 to Rs.900 per quintal for 'common' variety and from Rs.775 to Rs.930 for Grade 'A' which includes a bonus of Rs.50 per quintal.

(v) As short term measures, Government has extended the time upto 30.4.2009 for the notification issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable State Governments to impose stock limits on wheat, rice and paddy. Import of wheat and non-basmati rice on private account has also been permitted at zero duty.

(vi) Export of rice and wheat from Central Pool of stocks has been stopped from 11th August, 2003. Export of non-basmati rice on private account has also been prohibited from 1st April, 2008.

Allocation of rice and wheat to APL/BPL card holders

1294. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of rice and wheat to APL/BPL card holders during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, year-wise;

(b) whether Government has received any request from the State Governments to increase allocation and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to increase the allocation according to the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The details of allocation of rice and wheat to Below Poverty Line (BPL) [including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] and Above Poverty line (APL) categories are given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) Requests have been received from various States/Union Territories for increase/additional allocation of rice and wheat. The details are given in the Statement-II *(See* below).

(c) Keeping in view the requests received from the States/UTs and also with a view to check prices of foodgrains in the open market, in addition to allocations of foodgrains issued under TPDS as per allocation norms, the Government has made adhoc/additional allocations (including allocations for festivals) of wheat and rice at APL rate of about 13.46 lakh tons (11.45 lakh tons wheat and 2.01 lakh tons rice) during the current year, so far. Additionally, 17.77 lakh tons of wheat have also been released under Open Market Sale Scheme to States/UTs for sale to retail and bulk consumers during the months of September to December 2008.